

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SCA-01 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8912

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E.O. 11652: N/-
TAGS: EEWT EFIN UR US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA REPORT ON SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO MFN

1. PRAVDA (JUNE 20) CARRIES A WASHINGTON DATELINE TASS REPORT CHARGING THAT THE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN, I ELABORATION OF THE SECRETARY'S GRENADA COMMENT ON POSSIBILITIES OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR THE USSR, "TURNED THE MATTER ON ITS HEAD." THE SPOKESMAN PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCRIMINATORY COMMERCIAL TREATMENT (OF THE USSR) ON THE SOVIET UNION RATHER THAN ON THE US CONGRESS, TASS REPORTED, AND MADE THE USSR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TASK OF CREATING A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR RELATIONS. THE SPOKESMAN, ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT, DID NOT CONCEAL HIS AWARENESS THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE CHANGING SOVIET LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON EMIGRATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS. BY ADVOCATING "OPEN INTERVENTION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION," THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRAYED FROM THE "REASONABLE POSITION" WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD REFLECTED.

2. THE TASS ACCOUNT QUOTES THE SECRETARY AS HAVING SAID:
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"THE UNITED STATES WILL STRIVE PERSISTENTLY FOR THE BROADENING OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER." THIS APPEARS TO BE A RATHER LOOSE TRANSLATION OF HIS STATEMENT: "I DON'T THINK THAT THIS (LACK OF PROGRESS IN TRADE) MEANS THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE TO TRY TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BECAUSE I THINK IT IS OF GREAT

IMPORTANCE." THE PRAVDA ARTICLE OMITTS REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT REMOVAL OF THE JACKSON/VANIK AMENDMENT, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT CLIMATE IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS, IS NOT LIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM AN APPARENT INTENT TO FIND A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AND THE PRESS SPOKESMAN'S ELABORATION OF THEM, THE PRAVDA/TASS ACCOUNT REFLECTS THE SOVIET CONTENTION THAT THIS IS A US PROBLEM, TO THE SOLUTION OF WHICH NO SOVIET CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE ASKED OR GIVEN.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MFN, PRESS COMMENTS, EAST WEST TRADE, SPEECHES, TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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